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Pennsylvania Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2000

PENNSYLVANIA'S RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP SLIGHTLY IN JANUARY

HARRISBURG --- Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in Pennsylvania during January 2000 totaled 92.6 million pounds, up less than 1 percent from January 1999, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS).

Beef production, at 98.2 million pounds liveweight, was down 3 percent from January 1999. Total head slaughtered was 77,900, down 1 percent and liveweight averaged 1,261 pounds, a decrease of 25 pounds.

Veal production was 4.4 million pounds liveweight, down 7 percent. Calf slaughter of 13,000 head was down 13 percent and average liveweight increased 21 pounds to 341 pounds.

Hog production was 49.6 million pounds liveweight, up 5 percent from 1999. Total head slaughtered was 203,700, an increase of 6.6 percent from last year. Liveweight averaged 243 pounds, a decrease of 3 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production was 412,000 pounds liveweight, down 22 percent. The number slaughtered was 4,400, down 14 percent from the previous year. The average liveweight decreased 9 pounds to 94 pounds.

Nationally, commercial red meat production in January totaled 3.78 billion pounds, dressed weight basis, down 1 percent from the 3.83 billion pounds produced in January 1999. U.S. beef production, dressed weight basis, at 2.18 billion pounds, was slightly above the previous year. Veal production, at 17.0 million pounds, was down 2 percent from a year ago, and equal to the previous record low for January set in 1998.

U.S. pork production totaled 1.57 billion pounds, down 4 percent y from the previous year. Lamb and mutton production, at 19.0 million pounds, was up 7 percent from January 1999.